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Letter dated 11 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 10 May 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 9 May 1999.

On that day, seventeen military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (twelve F-16, three C-160, one C-650 and one of unidentified type), entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The twelve F-16, three C-160 and one C-650 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a south-easterly direction.

The unidentified aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas and executing a search-and-rescue patrol mission before returning to the Ankara FIR.

The three C-160 violated once more, on the same day, the Nicosia FIR, flying over its south-easterly zone before returning to the Ankara FIR.

As stated in my previous letters, these unauthorized Turkish intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are also in contravention to the provisions of Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey which demonstrate Turkey's blatant

and offensive disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like, once more, to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 (1998) and 1218 (1998) which called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of these resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices, with the goal of reducing tension and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative